

**By:** Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
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**To:** Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee

**Date:** 16 January 2014

**Subject:** **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL ACCOUNT FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE FOR 2013-14**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** This report informs the new Cabinet Committee about the purpose of the Local Account and the progress in developing the 2013-14 Local Account document.

With the withdrawal of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) from assessing and rating Councils with Adult Social Care responsibility, there is now greater emphasis on Councils to work collaboratively to improve performance and outcomes for people. Sector Led Improvement is the national programme designed to do this, and one of the underpinning principles of the sector-led improvement programme in adult social care is a stronger accountability by using increased transparency to promote improvement in services.

The publication of an annual Local Account is one means of achieving this.

The 2012-13 Local Account was agreed in July 2013.

**Recommendations** Cabinet Committee are asked to note the progress in the development of the 13-14 Local Account.

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## Introduction

1. (1) The Government's approach to the assessment of adult social care performance has changed in recent years. With the withdrawal of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as the independent assessor of Council performance, there is now more emphasis on requirement for councils to manage their own performance, work collaboratively with the sector to improve performance and outcomes and explain how they have performed to local residents. The Local Account has emerged as standard feature of the new local accountability framework.

## Policy Context

2. (1) The Publication of the 'Transparency in outcomes for Social Care' and the 'Vision for Social Care; Capable Communities and Active Citizens' in 2010, set out a future

for people receiving support from Social Care which focused on outcomes, transparency and Quality and outlined the seven principles for a modern system of Social Care; Prevention, Personalisation, Partnership, Plurality, Protection, Productivity and people.

(2) The publication of the “Think Local, Act Personal” in 2011, a partnership agreement developed and co-designed by a number of national and local social care organisations, including service users and carers, set out the shared ambitions for moving forward with personalisation and community based support.

(3) More recently, the publication of the White Paper, “Caring for our future; reforming care and support”, and the forthcoming Health and Care Bill, reinforces these visions, placing emphasis on maintaining independence, choice and control, quality, dignity and respect and clear information advice and guidance.

(4) With accountability moving from being a relationship between Councils and CQC to being a relationship between Councils and their communities, there is an expectation that Councils will work with their local communities, transparently. In addition, a new national performance framework is evolving which will help councils to manage their own performance collectively, through ‘Sector Led Improvement’ as well as to help Government to monitor the progress with these key priorities. It is expected that Councils will publish a “**Local Account**” to enable their service users, carers and communities to be able to hold them to account.

(5) Kent County Council published its first ever KCC Annual Report (Local Account) on Adult Social Care in December 2011. The second report, for 2011-12 was published in January 2013 after approval at Cabinet Committee.

(6) The document for 2012-13 was developed with significant input and interest from Service users, carers, partner organisations and Members. Cabinet Committee members were invited to A new format and title, “**Here for you, How did we do?**” was agreed and the document was published, with an easy read version in August 2013.

(7) Since then, there have been monthly bulletins sent out to update people on the areas of progress and for provide additional information, to ensure that the document is a ‘live’ document. There has been a lot of interest and regular feedback from users, carers and staff.

### **The 2013-14 Local Account.**

3. (1) The Local Account needs to be updated for 2013-14.

(2) It will include performance and activity information for the year 2013-14, including benchmarking analysis and progress reporting against key areas that are identified by our service users and carers.

(3) As was agreed with Members for last years document, the preparation and input from people will begin in January/ February to ensure that the document is not out of date when published.

(4) There will be workshops for service users, carers, and the voluntary sector to engage people as well as various visits to local forums and Service/ user groups.

(5) As last year, the learning disability partnership board will be actively involved in consulting with people with a learning disability on our behalf.

(6) As last year, a members briefing will be organised to enable Members to contribute to the process and the document.

### **Publication and feedback**

4 (1) The final document will be ready for publication in July and will be circulated to Members prior to this. Cabinet Committee will be updated on progress regularly.

(2) There are already feedback mechanisms in place, including through the Kent County Council website, twitter, email, post and phone. Feedback from these will be used in the development of the next document.

(3) Service users and carers will be encouraged to continue to play a part in the evaluation of the document.

### **Recommendations**

5. (1) Cabinet Committee are asked to note the progress in the development of the 13-14 Local Account.
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### **Background Documents**

Transparency in outcomes for Social Care' 2010

Vision for Social Care; Capable Communities and Active Citizens' 2010

Think Local, Act Personal 2011

Caring for our future: reforming care and support White Paper, Department of Health, 11 July 2012.

KCC Annual Report (Local Account) 2011-12

Local Account "Here for You, How did we do?" 2012-13

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